(സി) രണ്ടാമത്തെ ചോദ്യത്തിന്റെ സമാധാനംകൊണ്ട് ഈ ചോദ്യത്തിന് ഉത്തരം ആവശ്യമില്ലാ.

FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEES—OBJECTS OF AND PURPOSE SERVED BY

164. Mrs. K. Joshua *(Women-Trichur):* Will Government be pleased to state.

(*a*) how long ago were the Taluk and Town Food Advisory Committees formed;

(*b*) what was the object of these Committees;

(*c*) (*i*) do Government think any useful purpose has been served by these Committees (*ii*) if so, what;

(*d*) if not, why not end them or mend them?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):*

(*a*) The Committees were formed as per Government Proceedings Fd3. 2721/19 dated 5th February 1944.

(*b*) To secure the assistance and co-operation of the non-official public in the efforts made by the Government to ensure an adequate supply to the people, at reasonable rates, of all articles essential to preserve the life of the community.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The object mentioned in the answer to (*b*).

(*d*) Does not arise in view of the answer to (*c*).

Mrs. K. Joshua *(Women-Trichur):* What are the powers and functions of these committees?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The Committee can give advice on the improvements required, if any, in the working of the existing system of rationing, particularly with reference to distribution of stuffs, the quality of the articles distributed and whether the articles are distributed without inconvenience and hardship to the card-holders. The committee may also visit the fair price shops and retail shops to see if they are not open and closed according to the times prescribed, if the card-holders are not receiving proper rations and if any irregularity exists in the issue of the rations.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* May I know whether these committees are meeting regularly?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes, except in one Taluk.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Are they making any recommendations to the Government?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mrs. K. Joshua *(Women-Trichur):* Are the Taluk Committees working properly in all the Taluks?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Except in the Talappilly Taluk all the Committees are working properly.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether these items of work read out by the Hon'ble Member are not being attended to by the village committees also.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes. But only with reference to the local area over which they have jurisdiction.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is it the position of the Government that these Taluk Committees are expected to do the work of the Village Committees all over the State.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* These Committees are expected to function and exercise more or less similar powers with regard to the whole area covered by the Taluk to which these committees relate.

Mr. T. A Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* May I know, why there is no committee in the Talappalli Taluk?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The Talappalli Taluk Committee resigned on the ground that the existing powers given to the Committee are not adequate. The matter is under correspondence and the final decision has not yet been arrived at.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that that particular committee resigned on the ground that because of the identity of work between the Village Committee and the Taluk Committee this Taluk Committee is a superfluity and hence it is not necessary to waste public funds by way of giving T.A., etc.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* They resigned on the ground that the functions were more or less similar and they thought that no purpose would be served by the Taluk Committee.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Do the Government accept that position, Sir ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The matter is under consideration.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* May I know, whether there is any area in any taluk which is not covered by a Village Committee.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Excepting the Talappalli Committee which has resigned.....

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* That is not my question. My question is whether there is any village area not covered by the Village Committees in any Taluk ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I think all the Village areas are covered.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Then is it not a fact that if all these village areas are covered by village committees that the Taluk Committees will be a superfluity.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It is not so because in the Taluk Committees there will be various questions that will be arising for consideration affecting the entire taluk and so the Government think that in addition to Village Committees a separate committee for the whole taluk will be helpful.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know, whether there is any provision in any notification about the latter part of the answer, that the Taluk Committees have other powers also.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Of course no notification is issued. But that is the understanding on which these committees are working.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is there not the implication, Sir, the other way that they have no functions other than those of the village committees.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The Government publication is to that effect.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is there such a Committee for Mattancheri Town ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Have they given any advice regarding sugar being made available in retail shops ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are their advices taken with reference to the fair price shops ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* I want notice.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Has the Government any objection to allow the Committees to see the working of the Sirkar Depots also.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No objection.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know, what functions are exercised by the Mattancheri Town Committee ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The functions of the Taluk Committee and the Town Committee are the same. Only the area covered by these committees is different.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What I want to know is what kind of advice is sought from them ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* That question has already been answered.

GROUNDNUTS—PROHIBITION OF EXPORTS

165. **Mr. A. Eachara Menon** *(Chittur-Rural):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have considered the predicament in which the agriculturists are placed by their order prohibiting the export of groundnuts;

(*b*) whether they have any account to show how much groundnut is produced in the State;

(*c*) if so, what is the quantity;

(*d*) do they know that the groundnuts, the red variety, sprouts if they are not exposed to sun when taken out;

(*e*) are not the crops taken generally in Chingam and Kanni;

(*f*) do they know that the crops are exported to Pollachi at once they are taken out that they may be dried in the sun;

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